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The Hon. Sir HOPETOUN STOKES:—" I should not be prepared to criticize the action of the Government of India (Laughter)."

Mr. F. BIRLEY:—" Is the Hon. the Finance Member aware of any reason why the tanning industry should be deprived of this tariff protection when practically all other Indian industries continue to enjoy such protection?"

The Hon. Sir HOPETOUN STOKES:—" That is a question which should be addressed to the authorities governing the policy in this matter."

Depressed Classes

Ameliorative work for the Depressed Classes and the revival of the office of the Commissioner of Labour.

* 873 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the districts in which the Labour Department is working with a special staff;

(*b*) what arrangements have been made for the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes in places where there are no special District Labour Officers;

(*c*) what amounts have been allotted for the different items of ameliorative work in different districts in the Presidency, especially to districts where special labour staff does not exist;

(*d*) whether the Government have under consideration the question of restoring the special labour staff in districts from which it was withdrawn; and

(*e*) whether it is proposed to revive the office of the Commissioner of Labour?

A.—(*a*) The districts in which the Labour Department is working with a special staff are—

(1) Tanjore, (2) East Godavari, (3) West Godavari, (4) Kistna, (5) Guntur, (6) Bellary, (7) Anantapur, (8) Nellore, (9) Chingleput, (10) North Arcot, (11) South Arcot, (12) Trichinopoly, (13) South Kanara, (14) Malabar, (15) Salem and (16) Madras.

(*b*) In the areas (districts and taluks) in which the Labour staff is not working, the Revenue Department undertakes construction of wells, acquisition of house-sites, etc., in deserving cases, obtaining the necessary funds in each case from the Commissioner of Labour. In the district of Salem there is no District Labour Officer but the special work is in charge of the Inspecting Tahsildar who does it in addition to his own duties. He has under him one clerk and one peon for labour work. In Madras the work of the District Labour Officer has been entrusted to the Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of Labour and he has a Deputy Surveyor working under him.

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(c) The amounts allotted during 1933–34 for the different items of work in the various districts will be found in the statement [a] annexed. No individual allotments are given to the districts in which there is no special staff. A sum is reserved for such districts.

(d) No.

(e) The proposal to revive the post is under consideration.

Mr. C. Basu Dev :—" May I know whether in regard to the answer to clause (e), the Government have come to any decision in the matter? "

The Hon. Sir Mahomed Usman :—" I am very glad to announce that the Government have come to a decision to revive the office of the Commissioner of Labour."

Mr. M. Devadasan :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are going to adopt the same procedure in the Tinnevelly and other districts as they have adopted in the Salem district where the Inspecting Tahsildar has been asked to do the work of the District Labour Officer? "

The Hon. Sir Mahomed Usman :—" Notice of the question, Sir."

Religious and Charitable Endowments, loan of the services of a Government servant as Secretary to the Hindu Religious Endowments Board.

* 874 *Q.*—Subadar-Major S. A. Nanjappa Bahadur: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the services of a Superintendent of the Legislative Council office were lent to the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Board to fill up the post of its Secretary for three years only in 1925 April; and whether extension of three years and a further extension of another five years was given by the Government;

(b) if the answer to clause (a) is in the affirmative, the reasons and the necessity for such long extensions;

(c) whether it is a fact that the pay of the Secretary has been Rs. 600 since April 1930; and

(d) the reason for retaining such a high-paid Secretary since 1930 April, after the Board had been thoroughly organized and worked for five years?

A.—(a) & (c) Yes.

(b) & (d) The extension of the loan of the services of the incumbent was granted at the request of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board as the Board considered that his retention was necessary in the interests of efficient administration.

a Printed as Appendix V on pages 852–857 infra.